

Listing of Claims:

1. An α_2 -antiplasmin cleaving enzyme, comprising:
a protein having a molecular weight of about 180 kDa in a dimeric form as determined by SDS-PAGE, wherein each subunit of the dimeric form has a molecular weight of about 97 kDa as determined by SDS-PAGE, the protein comprising an N-terminal sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:1 and internal sequences comprising SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7, and SEQ ID NO:8, and wherein the enzyme cleaves precursor α_2 -antiplasmin at the pro12-asn13 bond.
2. The α_2 -antiplasmin cleaving enzyme of claim 1 having an optimum activity at pH=7.5 \pm 0.2.

Claims 3-21 (Withdrawn)